

**RURAL DISTRICT OF  
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM**



**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

**31st DECEMBER, 1946.**





# RURAL DISTRICT OF CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

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(a) **Medical Officer of Health :**

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) **Senior Sanitary Inspector :**

E. W. STEVENS, F.R.I.P.H.H., M.R.San.I., A.M.Inst.S.E.,  
who also holds the posts of Building and Sanitary  
Surveyor and Waterworks Manager.

**Additional Sanitary Inspectors :**

H. J. TAYLOR, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

S. H. MURRAY, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

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# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31st DECEMBER, 1946.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen :

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 dated the 13th March, 1947.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.  
Medical Officer of Health.

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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ..	86,034
Population (1946) ... ..	23,900
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946 according to the Rate Book) ... ..	7,606
Rateable Value ... ..	£202,113
Sum represented by penny rate ... ..	£863

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1946.

				Cf			
				Total	M.	F.	Rate. E & W
Live Births	...	...	...	495	257	238	
Legitimate	...	...	...	459	238	221	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	36	19	17	
Birth Rate							
(per 1,000 population)	...						20.7 19.1
Still Births	...	...	...	14	9	5	
-Rate							
(per 1,000 total population)							.58 .53
Deaths	...	...	...	251	128	123	
Rate (per 1,00 population)							
							10.5 11.5
Deaths from Puerperal Causes							
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...		0	0	0	
Other Puerperal causes	...			1	0	1	
Death Rate of Infants							
under 1 year	...	...		14	8	6	
All infants, per 1,000 live							
births	...	...	...				28.3 43.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000							
legitimate live births	...			14	8	6	30.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000							
illegitimate live births	...			0	0	0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				28	16	12	
„ „ Measles (all ages)				0	0	0	
„ „ Whooping Cough							
all ages)	...			1	0	1	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under							
2 years)	...			0	0	0	
„ „ Influenza	...			5	4	1	
„ „ Respiratory							
Diseases (21,22,23)				19	13	6	
„ „ Diseases of Heart							
and Blood Vessels							
(18, 19, 20)	...			115	48	67	

## DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and parat. fevers ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of resp. system ...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Other forms of tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Syphilitic diseases ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Influenza ...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Measles ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph. ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Ac. inf. enceph. ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (m)						
uterus (f) ...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum				2	3	5
Cancer of breast ...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	...	12	5	17
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	...	...	...	11	17	28
Heart disease ...	...	...	...	34	43	77
Other diseases of circ. system ...	...	...	...	3	7	10
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	4	4	8
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other resp. diseases ...	...	...	...	5	0	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Other digve. diseases ...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Nephritis ...	...	...	...	5	3	8
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis ...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Prem. birth ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Suicide ...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Road traffic accidents ...	...	...	...	3	0	3
Other violent causes ...	...	...	...	4	3	7
All other causes ...	...	...	...	15	9	24
				128	123	251

**TUBERCULOSIS.****New Cases and Mortality.**

Age group	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
5	—	2	3	1	—	—	1	—
15	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	3	2	1	—	2	1	—	2
35	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
and upwards								
<b>totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring in the District during the Year 1946.**

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	55*	14*
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	3*	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	40	0
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	25*	0
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	2*	1
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	28*	2
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	4*	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	8*	4
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	6*	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	7	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	3	1

\* Includes Services cases.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

### Box, Corsham and Colerne Main Supplies.

Although it was necessary to augment the Widdenham Source by incorporating the Weavert Springs and by utilising the Regional Scheme, the augmentation was of shorter duration than in previous years. The V-notch gauging chamber at the Widdenham station has been invaluable, and as the readings are taken daily, a continuous record can be maintained.

All the plant at Widdenham is now electrically operated, the crude oil engines serving as auxiliary plant in the event of an emergency.

The pumping plant lifts water to :

- (a) HIGH LEVEL TANK, RUDLOE.—This supply gravitates to the Reservoir at Kingsdown, Box and also serves en route the district between Rudloe and Kingsdown. About 50% of Box is served therefrom.

During the year under review, however, it has been necessary to pump directly to the Kingsdown Reservoir from Widdenham in order to maintain the supply served by this reservoir.

This arrangement imposes a very heavy pressure on the mains and the water fittings of the properties en route are unable to withstand this and overflows have therefore been prevalent. The Council have under consideration the installation of a small booster plant at Washwell to eliminate this direct pumping.

- (b) LOW LEVEL TANK, RUDLOE.—The water gravitates to a portion of the Corsham Urban Area.
- (c) ELEVATED CONCRETE TOWER, COLERNE.—This supplies the village, including the hamlet of Thickwood. The latter area is served by a private supply from Lucknam Estate, but during the year a temporary supply has been afforded, by means of a standpipe, from the Air Ministry main. The Council are now negotiating with the Air Ministry for a supply to be afforded from their main to afford a permanent supply into Thickwood to serve all the properties in this hamlet, in which case the supply from Lucknam Estate would be terminated.
- (d) THE TWO ELEVATED TANKS AT THE COLERNE AERODROME, provided to serve the whole of this establishment including the dispersal sites at Thickwood.



- (e) ELEVATED TANK AT RUDLOE MANOR, BOX, occupied by the Air Ministry, and provided solely to serve this establishment.

All the water at Widdenham is chlorinated before distribution, and samples are taken before and after chlorination, for bacteriological examinations, at least quarterly.

#### **Corsham—M.A.P. Supply—Monks Lane.**

This source was utilised to augment the Corsham Waterworks Company's supply, when the Loxwell springs (the main source of the Company) had to be eliminated from distribution. This arrangement has continued since the Council acquired the Company's Undertaking early in 1944, and approximately 140,000 gallons daily are taken from this source. The water is pumped from boreholes at the Chippenham Borough Council's Waterworks and is chlorinated. In addition to serving a part of the Urban area of Corsham, it also serves the Parish of Lacock.

#### **Corsham—Goodes Hill Supply.**

Two boreholes maintain this supply, which provides water for the Gastard district of Corsham, as well as a very small area of Lacock. A connection, however, has been made, so that the whole of the Lacock system can be augmented from this source.

An elevated reservoir exists at the top of the Velley Hill, to which water is pumped from the boreholes, for gravitation to all points of supply. Samples are taken periodically for bacteriological examination and the results have been satisfactory. The water is not chlorinated.

#### **Box (Washwells)**

This is a small local supply, serving approximately half of the parish (the lower region). It consists of a reservoir fed by springs, from which the water gravitates after chlorination. It is connected with the Rudloe-Kingsdown main, so that it can be augmented during periods of drought.

#### **Box (Ditteridge).**

This subsidiary supply serving the hamlet of Ditteridge only, has been discontinued and the area is now served from the Widdenham supply, the main at Middle Hill having been extended for that purpose. The original supply was from a well, the water being raised to an elevated reservoir by means of a wind engine.

### **Regional Scheme.**

The Parishes served by this scheme are :—

Biddestone  
 Bremhill (part of)  
 Castle Combe  
 Christian Malford  
 Grittleton  
 Kington Langley  
 Kington St. Michael  
 Nettleton  
 Sutton Bengier  
 Yatton Keynell

The water is purchased from the Borough Council and it is pumped from their reservoir at Yewstock to an elevated concrete reservoir at Yatton Keynell, capacity 150,000 gallons, and also gravitates to a reservoir at Kington Langley, capacity 50,000 gallons. It can gravitate to all the areas of supply from these reservoirs. A connection has been made at Biddestone, so that the Widdenham supply can be supplemented from this source when the necessity arises, which is frequently during the summer months. The average daily quantity taken from the Borough Council's reservoir during the year under review is 105,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated at the source.

### **Nettleton Borehole.**

This borehole, 380ft. in depth, serves a useful purpose by augmenting the Yatton Keynell Tower (Regional Scheme), as well as supplying directly the mains in the immediate vicinity. It was put into supply on the 26th August, 1943, and at the moment pumping is continuous for 14 hours daily, which affords an average daily of 70/80,000 gallons. The supply is chlorinated, although periodical sampling for bacteriological examination invariably shows a sterile water.

### **Bremhill—Foxham and East Tytherton.**

In addition to the Regional Scheme, the two hamlets have each a local source of supply, both being by gravitation. Reservoirs are served by springs and at Foxham the supply is chlorinated while the East Tytherton source is not.

### **Calne Without.**

This district is partly served by the main of the Calne Water Company, Ltd. Apart from this, the supplies are by individual wells and springs.

### **Cherhill.**

Two sources of supply serve the village, one is that of the Compton Bassett Estate Supply Company, and the other of a private individual. Both supplies are unsatisfactory, as they are derived from a local spring to which drainage has access. Bacteriological examination has revealed gross contamination.

Part of this Parish used to rely upon wells which became devoid of water during periods of drought. During the latter part of 1945, however, a supply was afforded to standpipes from the main of the Air Ministry nearby to overcome this difficulty.

### **Chippenham Without.**

With a few exceptions, the Parish is served by the supply of the Chippenham Borough Council.

The Allington private supply within this Parish was not satisfactory, and at the request of the owners the Council laid a main from the Malmesbury Road (part of the regional scheme) to connect with the Allington system. The Council decided not to take over the whole of the system but to supply water in bulk at a point near Heywood.

### **Compton Bassett.**

Hitherto this Parish generally has relied upon individual wells, but during the present year a standpipe supply has been made available for part of the Parish. The supply is from the main of the Air Ministry, which serves the local R.A.F. Station.

### **Heddington.**

This Parish is dependent on individual wells.

### **Hilmarton.**

The local supply previously owned by the Hilmarton Water Company is now the property of this Council. It consists of a gathering ground, not under the ownership of the Council. Water is collected in a reservoir which is able to serve the village (a part only) by gravitation. The supply is not yet chlorinated. but it is anticipated a small plant will be installed during 1947.

The quality of the water fluctuated considerably during the year and this is not surprising since the gathering ground has no protection. The Council is now negotiating with the owner of the land, to see what arrangements can be made to afford protection thereto.

The supply can be augmented by the Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council Supply through the medium of

the Air Ministry main, Lyneham R.A.F. Station. This, at the present time, can be regarded as a temporary arrangement only.

### **Langley Burrell Without.**

The greater part of this parish is served with the Chippenham Borough Council's water supply.

The Steinbrook Water Main, previously in private ownership, was acquired by the Council in 1946. This main is situated in the Swindon Road and serves properties en route to the Parish of Kington Langley.

### **Nettleton.**

A small portion of the Parish is served by a supply from the West Gloucester Water Company. Otherwise, the Regional Scheme serves the district.

### **North Wraxall.**

The main sources of supply are from individual wells and springs.

### **Pewsham.**

A part of this Parish is supplied with water from the main of the Chippenham Borough Council, while another part is supplied from a reservoir situated at Derry Hill on the Bowood Estate.

This latter supply is unsatisfactory. It invariably shows a gross contamination and during periods of drought water has to be hauled for domestic requirements. Approval has been given by the Ministry of Health, to the extension of the existing main in the London Road, served by the Borough Council's main, and this will be connected to the system served by the Derry Hill supply. It is hoped that this extension will be completed during the ensuing year.

Stanley, another area of the Parish, is not adequately served with water, and the Council have been hauling water weekly to this locality and must continue to do so until a piped supply is provided. The haulage is a costly item but there is no alternative. Approval has now been given by the Ministry of Health to an extension being made from the main at East Tytherton (Parish of Bremhill), via West Tytherton to Stanley, and it is anticipated that this will be completed during 1947.

### **Stanton St. Quintin.**

This village is entirely dependent upon individual well supplies.

### Sutton Benger.

The village proper and the hamlet of Draycot Cerne are supplied from the Regional Scheme. Seagry, however, another section of the Parish, has not so far been provided with a public supply. The Council Houses at Seagry Hill were dependent upon a well supply, but the Council extended the main from Sutton Benger village during 1945 to afford a more adequate supply to these houses. Ultimately it is intended to extend the main to Upper and Lower Seagry.

### Summary.

The proportion of dwelling houses in the Rural District which are supplied from public water mains and the corresponding figures for the population are detailed in the following table :

	Dwelling Houses		Population rep.	
	No.	%	No.	%
Supplied from public water mains				
(a) direct to houses ...	3854	55.5	13085	54.7
(b) by means of standpipes	203	2.9	756	3.1
Not supplied from public water mains* ...	2831	41.6	10059	42.2
	6944	100.0	23900	100.0

\*Included in this Category are a small portion of dwelling houses which are served by piped water supplies provided on a private basis.

### Gauging of Springs at Widdenham.

The average daily gaugings during each respective month were as follows :—

1946	Gallons.
January ... ..	516,580
February ... ..	516,580
March ... ..	422,808
April ... ..	295,776
May ... ..	254,952
June ... ..	281,592
July ... ..	217,608
August ... ..	254,230
September ... ..	516,580
October ... ..	355,848
November ... ..	217,608
December ... ..	516,580

**Water Consumption.**

Average Daily Consumption					1946
					Gallons per day
Box (excluding supply from Washwell and Ditteridge) ... ..					On bye-pass
Colerne Village ... ..					15,355
Yewstock Reservoir (Borough Supply to Regional Scheme) ... ..					105,254
Kington Langley Reservoir ... ..					24,934
Monks Lane 6-in. supply from M.A.P. main					135,304
Corsham ... ..					46,869
Neston ... ..					On Box Tank
Hullavington R.A.F. ... ..					56,032
Colerne R.A.F. ... ..					84,390
Middlewick ... ..					2,505

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# SAMPLES SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Location.	Source of Supply	Fit	Unfit	Sus- pect.
Box—High Level Tank	Hungerford Wood Springs after Chlorination ...	6	—	—
Bremhill (E. Tytherton)	Springs at Wick Hill (unchlorinated)	2	—	3
Colerne Village	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination ...	3	—	—
Corsham—Low Level Tank	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination ...	6	—	—
Corsham (Goodeshill)	Borehole ...	4	—	2
Foxham (Stockham Marsh)	Springs at Gotshill after chlorination ...	3	—	2
Hilmarton	Springs at Catcombe (unchlorinated)* ...	5	7	4
Nettleton	Borehole ...	2	—	—
Pewsham	Springs at Old Derry Hill ...	1	2	1
Slaughterford	Springs ...	1	—	—
Washwell (Box)	Springs at Washwell after chlorination	3	—	1
Widdenham	Hungerford Wood Springs before chlorination ...	2	—	2
Widdenham	Hungerford Wood Springs after chlorination ...	1	—	—
Mile Elm Council Houses	Well Supply ...	—	2	—
Number of private Samples taken and submitted for analysis	... ..	6	25	8
		45	36	23

All samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

## NEW WATER SERVICES.

## Connections to the Council's Mains.

Parish.	Number of Collections.
Box ... ..	1
Bremhill ... ..	5
Castle Combe ... ..	5
Chippenham Without ... ..	2
Christian Malford ... ..	1
Colerne ... ..	7
Corsham ... ..	26
Grittleton ... ..	23
Hilmarton ... ..	2
Kington Langley ... ..	1
Kington St. Michael ... ..	1
Lacock ... ..	3
Langley Burrell Without ... ..	4
Nettleton ... ..	8
Sutton Benger ... ..	1
Yatton Keynell ... ..	3
	<hr/> 93



### RAINFALL FIGURES.

The rainfall figures for several years now have been provided by Colonel M. Earle, Hilmarton Manor, to whom I am indebted for this year's figures :

1946.	Inches.
January ... ..	1.55
February ... ..	2.04
March ... ..	.81
April ... ..	1.94
May ... ..	3.56
June ... ..	2.52
July ... ..	1.15
August ... ..	3.98
September ... ..	2.84
October ... ..	.68
November ... ..	3.38
December ... ..	1.83
	<hr/>
	26.28
	<hr/>

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

#### Biddestone.

A combined sewer and surface water drain exists in this Parish, a part being laid with pipes, whilst another section comprises a stone drock. The sewer receives crude slop water drainage and the over-flow of cesspools and septic tanks. The water course running through the village receives the outfall of the sewer and during the normal flow of this water course, complaints are non-existent, but as soon as the dry weather approaches, nuisances arise.

A proper sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is required and this has been scheduled as a scheme to receive priority.

#### Box (Main Sewer Outfall).

The outfall discharges into lagoons at Mill Lane, from which the effluent overflows into a system of irrigation channels before reception in the Box Brook.

The effluent is diverted periodically to allow aeration, cleansing, etc., of the channels, while others are in use. The works are obsolete and do not conform in any respect with modern practice

of sanitary engineering. Samples of effluent taken in the past have shown that it does not conform with Ministry of Health standards for discharge into streams.

Only the village proper is sewered, except for two small areas, which are served with two local sewage disposal installations. These are situated at the Bassets and Middle Hill, where groups of houses drain into covered settlement tanks, with effluents discharging over filter beds of slag media. The former works were entirely reconstructed a few years ago. The Middle Hill Works deal with a weak sewage as compared with other works, owing to the large volume of storm water conveyed by the sewer.

A new sewerage scheme for this Parish is also scheduled for priority.

**Bremhill, Calne Without, Cherhill, Chippenham Without, Christian Malford, Compton Bassett, Heddington, Hilmarton, Langley Burrell Without, Nettleton and North Wraxall.**

There are no sewerage systems in these Parishes. The larger properties are dependent upon small drainage disposal installations while occupiers of the smaller dwellings have to be content with the conservancy system and disposal of waste water in the garden. In some cases, however, ditches or water courses are used for the conveyance of drainage and this often results in the production of nuisances and pollution of water supplies.

#### **Castle Combe.**

A combined sewer and surface water drain discharging into the stream comprises the sewerage system of the Parish. The major portion of the houses have slop-water drains connected thereto while the closet accommodation is of the conservancy system.

A sewerage scheme is urgently required and this will be given priority by the Council.

#### **Colerne.**

The Sewage Disposal Works, situated in this Parish, are the property of the Air Ministry and were constructed to serve the local R.A.F. establishment. They are maintained and managed by the Council.

A length of sewer from Church Lane to Lower Watergates and another independent sewer at Tutton Hill are connected to these works.

At Washmere there is a surface water drain and since local residents dispose of slop-water in the road gully, insanitary conditions exist.

The prevailing closet accommodation is the pail system and it is a practice for householders to remove the pail contents to their allotments at a distance from their houses. A further method employed is to use swallow-holes or fissures in the rocks to dispose slop water, its ultimate disposal being unknown.

It is unfortunate that the war intervened, otherwise the whole village would have been sewered several years ago. However, the Council are fully conscious of the insanitary conditions existing and the sewerage of this village will take precedence over other schemes.

### **Corsham.**

The Sewage Disposal Works, completed in 1940 have been employed to full capacity. Six sludge drying beds were reconstructed during 1944 to facilitate drying and so allow the Dortmund Tanks to be "desludged" more frequently. The result was satisfactory. The remaining six were reconstructed during this year and a great improvement has been effected.

Apart from this the works have functioned satisfactorily as well as the irrigation channels, which receive the sewage from the storm water tank.

The construction of these works enabled sewage disposal installations at the Potley Lane and Gastard housing scheme sites to be abandoned and demolished. This has avoided considerable maintenance.

### **Grittleton.**

There is no proper system of sewerage in this Parish, although there are lengths of drains in the main street in the village proper and Littleton Drew, which act as sewers and receive the drainage from those properties connected to them. In each case the outfalls discharge into open water courses. This is not satisfactory and a sewerage scheme has been advocated for Littleton Drew where sanitary conditions are more acute.

### **Kington Langley.**

Apart from a small sewer in the centre of the village, which serves only a few properties, the Parish is not sewered. The sewer discharges into a cesspool on private land and overflows into a channel in a field for irrigation. This seldom causes any trouble.

There are one or two ditches into which overflows from drains and cesspools discharge, and these are cleansed periodically by the Council. A new sewage scheme is required and will receive priority.

### **Kington St. Michael.**

This Parish possesses two separate sewers and each has a different outfall. One discharges into a ditch running through grazing land at the lower end of the village, whilst the other discharges into a ditch adjoining the allotments in the upper part of the village. The sewage is received in both ditches in an untreated condition. A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme is required.

### **Lacock.**

The main Sewage Disposal Works receive the sewage from the major portion of the Parish. Part of the sewage is pumped whilst the rest is by gravitation.

The works have always functioned satisfactorily and the Analyst's reports upon the effluent are favourable. The arms of the rotary sprinklers required renewing, being incapable of repair and the renewal was completed this year.

There are subsidiary works at Bewley Lane. The outfall empties into a settlement tank, from which the effluent overflows on to an aerating stair. The effluent is then received into a system of irrigating channels which are used alternatively. These works usually function satisfactorily and the irrigation land absorbs all the effluent.

### **Pewsham, Stanton St. Quintin, Sutton Benger and Yatton Keynell.**

There are no proper systems of sewers existing in these four Parishes. Each Parish has lengths of pipes and ditches serving as sewers, but these are not efficient and require constant attention.

The ditches were originally surface water channels, which, in the process of time, have slowly been converted into nothing more or less than sewers, conveying untreated sewage.

The closet accommodation in these Parishes is mainly of the conservancy system.

The drainage conditions existing at Yatton Keynell are such that a sewerage scheme is urgently required and the Council have scheduled it for priority.

### **Removal of Refuse.**

The Council engages the services of a Contractor for the collection and disposal of household refuse.

The refuse is collected in a properly designed scavenging vehicle and the periods of collection vary according to the urban or rural character of the Parish, hence collections are made at weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly intervals.

The refuse is collected from all Parishes in the district, twenty four in number. Householders have to provide their own refuse receptacles.

Old quarries, disused pits and the like are used for the deposition of refuse. The tips are supervised and covered with soil periodically, while the acquisition of any new tips, when they can be found affords an opportunity for a method of controlled tipping to be introduced.

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# RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST.

## Restrictions Act, 1923.

No application for a certificate under this Act was received during the year.

### NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.

Parish.	Alterations and Additions				Miscel- laneous
	New Houses.	to existing houses.	Garages		
Biddestone ... ..	...	1	-	-	
Box ... ..	...	3	-	4	
Bremhill ... ..	...	2	-	2	
Calne Without ... ..	...	1	-	2	
Castle Combe ... ..	1	-	-	-	
Cherhill ... ..	...	-	-	1	
Chippenham Without ... ..	1	-	-	2	
Christian Malford ... ..	2	4	-	4	
Colerne ... ..	...	1	-	-	
Compton Bassett ... ..	...	1	-	-	
Corsham ... ..	5	7	1	4	
Grittleton ... ..	...	1	-	2	
Heddington ... ..	...	-	-	-	
Hilmarton ... ..	...	1	-	1	
Kington Langley ... ..	...	-	-	1	
Kington St. Michael ... ..	...	2	-	-	
Lacock ... ..	...	1	-	-	
Langley Burrell Without ... ..	3	1	-	2	
Nettleton ... ..	...	3	-	-	
North Wraxall ... ..	1	1	-	2	
Pewsham ... ..	...	-	-	-	
Stanton St. Quintin ... ..	...	-	-	-	
Sutton Benger ... ..	...	-	-	3	
Yatton Keynell ... ..	...	3	-	-	
	13	33	1	30	



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.	1946
Number of Farms on Register ... ..	519
Number of Milk Retailers ... ..	82
Number of T.T. Dealers ... ..	4
Number of Accredited Dealers ... ..	—
Pasteurisation Plants ... ..	—
Number of Accredited Farms ... ..	108
Number of T.T. Farms ... ..	51
Pasteurised Milk Dealers ... ..	2

### Summary of Work carried out.

Total number of Farms inspected during year	104
Farms requiring structural alterations, etc. ...	28
Farms requiring improvements in methods, etc.	30
Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed ... ..	9
Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition	37
Total number of inspections ... ..	187

## BAKEHOUSE INSPECTION.

There are 16 Bakehouses in the Council's area, situated in the following Parishes:—

Box ... ..	2
Bremhill ... ..	2
Castle Combe ... ..	2
Cherhill ... ..	1
Colerne ... ..	1
Corsham ... ..	4
Kington Langley ... ..	1
Kington St. Michael ... ..	1
Sutton Benger ... ..	1
Yatton Keynell ... ..	1

The Ministry of Food have issued 3 Cake, Flour and Confectionery Manufacturing Licences to 3 Retailers in the Parishes of Castle Combe, Corsham and Lacock.

Regular visits are made to Bakehouses and where necessary informal notices are served on the occupiers calling upon them to comply with the regulations concerning Bakehouses.

Number of inspections of Bakehouses ... ..	18
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### OTHER FOODS.

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Food.	Pounds.	Condition.
Oats ... ..	162	Mill Worm
Potatoes ... ..	1344	Decomposed
Boiled Sweets ... ..	8	Broken Glass
Bacon ... ..	8	Bone Taint
Bacon ... ..	4½	Pigmentation
Bacon ... ..	3½	Putrified
Bacon ... ..	20	Decomposed
Bread ... ..	374	Mould
Prunes ... ..	723	Decomposed
Milk ... ..	5	Blown
Potted Meat ... ..	11	Blown

No Slaughterhouses have been operating in this district since the outbreak of War and slaughtering is now centralised in the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses, Chippenham. Our Inspectors occasionally carry out the inspections at the Slaughterhouse to relieve the Inspector for the Borough of Chippenham.

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### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Periodic visits are made to the various Factories in the Council's district. Special regard is had to the provision of adequate means of light and ventilation, suitable temperature of rooms, satisfactory cleanliness, sufficient closet accommodation and washing facilities. Attention is also given to means of escape in the case of fire.

Number of inspections made ... .. 9

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### INFESTATION.

Persons who require treatment because of verminous conditions receive it at the Public Assistance Institution. Their personal clothing and bedding is removed for treatment to the Isolation Hospital.

Houses which are infested with vermin are dealt with by spraying with Zaldecide or by the Lethane method.



## **INFESTATION ORDER, 1943—RODENT CONTROL.**

The Council's Rodent Operator has continued his duties throughout the year. He has made systematic surveys in all 24 Parishes of the Rural District, as required by Ministry of Food Circular 12, and where considered necessary, he has carried out the recognised treatments.

Surveys have been made of all the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, Sewers and Refuse Tips, according to the instructions contained in Ministry of Food Circular 11 and the requisite maintenance treatments and post baiting have been executed. The surveys have revealed that dwellinghouses and business premises are relatively free from rodent infestation, but minor infestations do occur. The degree of infestation in most Parishes seems to vary according to the season of the year.

Certain food premises and stables were found to be heavily infested.

The degree of infestation at the various refuse tips, sewage disposal works and sewers varied, but initial treatments have reduced the number of rodents to reasonable proportions.

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## **SHOP ACTS.**

Regular inspection of shops was not possible during the year, but periodic visits were made when complaints were received.

Purveyors of Meat Shops were frequently visited during the course of meat inspections and they were generally satisfactory.

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## **ICE-CREAM.**

### **Inspection of Premises : Sections 13 & 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.**

Two premises have been registered for the manufacture for the purpose of sale of Ice-Cream and the storage of Ice-Cream intended for sale.

A general check-up of premises used for the manufacture or sale of Ice-Cream was undertaken during the latter part of the year and a number of unregistered premises were discovered. The Medical Officer of Health visited these premises with the Sanitary Inspector and the proprietors were informed of the provisions of Sections 13 & 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

A full report on premises being used for the manufacture or sale of Ice-cream is in course of preparation.

Fourteen visits were made to Ice-cream premises during the year.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No complaints have been received concerning offensive trades. All fish frying premises in the district have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

### RAG AND FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1923.

There are no premises in the district which are governed by the provisions of these Acts.

### SALVAGE COLLECTED DURING 1946.

				T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	108	15	0	614	17	0
Bones	...	...	...		8	1	2	3	4
Rags	...	...	...		5	0	3	13	8
				109	8	1	620	14	0
Salvage Costs for 1946	...	...	...				£551	1	6

### HOUSING.

During 1946 the Council appointed two Housing Inspectors temporarily, to make a comprehensive survey of houses. The number completed by the end of the year was 854. These were placed provisionally in the following categories:—

Category 1 :					
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	40
Category 2 :					
Minor Defects	...	...	...	...	332
Category 3 :					
Extensive Repairs	...	...	...	...	373
Category 4 :					
Appropriate for repair under Housing (Rural Workers) Act	...	...	...	...	18
Category 5 :					
Unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost					91
Total	...	...	...	...	854

The shortage of labour, materials, increased cost of repairs and greater wear and tear due to additional number of occupants, all contribute to an acceleration of the normal deterioration. Until labour and materials become freely available, it will be impossible to make any headway with the repair and improvement of houses.

**COUNCIL HOUSES.**

Biddestone	...	...	...	...	2
Box	...	...	...	...	30
Bremhill...	...	...	...	...	7
Calne Without		...	...	...	22
Cherhill	...	...	...	...	18
Christian Malford	...	...	...	...	10
Compton Bassett	...	...	...	...	4
Corsham	...	...	...	...	68
Heddington	...	...	...	...	6
Hilmarton	...	...	...	...	13
Kington Langley	...	...	...	...	12
Kington St. Michael	...	...	...	...	6
Lacock	...	...	...	...	23
Nettleton	...	...	...	...	2
Sutton Benger	...	...	...	...	11
Yatton Keynell	...	...	...	...	2

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## SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1946.

Visits to houses in connection with systematic housing inspections and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	474
Council House inspections	...	...	...	...	288
New building inspections	...	...	...	...	283
Houses connected with water mains of Council	...	...	...	...	93
Water samples secured for analysis	...	...	...	...	104
Waterworks main extension, etc., inspections	...	...	...	...	231
Privy vaults converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	—
Privy vaults converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	—
New pail closets	...	...	...	...	—
Earth closets to water closets	...	...	...	...	—
New water closets	...	...	...	...	32
Inspection of new drainage systems provided to old premises	...	...	...	...	83
Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions and drainage systems	...	...	...	...	64
Inspection of refuse tips	...	...	...	...	48
Inspection of Farms and Dairies	...	...	...	...	187
Slaughterhouse inspections	...	...	...	...	38
Overcrowding complaints dealt with	...	...	...	...	4
Factory and workshops inspections	...	...	...	...	9
Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	...	123
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	8
Nuisance inspections	...	...	...	...	156
Inspections under Petroleum Act, 1926	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	36
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	10
Rodent Inspections	...	...	...	...	735
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	18
Building Licence Work Inspections	...	...	...	...	138

### SCHOOL CHILDREN.

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 758 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 52.9% were found to be of normal nutrition and 8.71% were excellent, 31.66% were found to be slightly sub-normal, and 6.73% badly under-nourished.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Up to the end of the year 1946 the following numbers of children have been successfully immunised :

Ages 1—4	...	...	845	(34.9%)
Ages 5—14	...	...	2401	(68.4%)
Total	...	...	3246	(54.7%)

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### SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE.

During 1946 a Central Kitchen was opened in Chippenham which supplies mid-day meals to the schools at Chippenham, Kington St. Michael, Stanton St. Quintin.

October 1946.

No. of children receiving mid-day meals at school :—

Full or part payment.	Free.
455	75

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### MILK-IN-SCHOOLS SCHEME.

By the end of 1946 every school had a supply of fresh milk daily, provided free of cost, but limited for the present to one-third pint per child.

School milk supplies are sampled by the County Sanitary Inspector for biological examination four times a year and endeavours are made by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake clinical examinations of the Accredited and Non-Designated herds four times annually. This is not always possible, however, owing to shortage of staff.

Average Attendance October, 1946	...	...	2,048	
No. taking milk on a day in October, 1946			2,036	(99.4%)
Pasteurised or Heat Treated Milk supplied to			1,147	children
Tuberculin Tested Milk supplied to	...	...	625	„
Accredited milk supplied to	...	...	152	„
Non Designated Milk supplied to	...	...	112	„

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